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UNIVERSAL KEY SECURITY METHOD AND SYSTEM

Abstract

A method and apparatus for providing universal key security in a mechanical key access environment is disclosed. An electromechanical lock is provided for securing an environment, whereby access is permitted through the steps of receiving a key in the lock, reading a first source of indicia from the key, wherein said first source of indicia comprises information or data specific to said lock, reading a second source of indicia, wherein the second source of indicia comprises information specific to the user of the key, and authorizing a use of the key based on both indicia readings. One embodiment involves the use of a biometric device within the key or on or near the lock, with one example of such a device being a fingerprint sensor. Another embodiment involves the use of added information, such as the entry of an individual PIN number by the user of the key.